

**Provincial Elections 2018****The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations' List of Priorities  
for New Brunswick's Public Universities**

(Fredericton, August 22, 2018) The New Brunswick Federation of Faculty Associations (FNBFA) is calling for increased investments in our public universities, accessibility of university education for all New Brunswickers, and fair employment opportunities for all university professors, researchers and librarians.

Mary Lou Babineau, President of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA) further states that "Repeated studies show that every dollar invested in our public universities yields a much greater return; in fact, our returns on these investments may be unparalleled by any other sector. These investments improve our economic and social development, they help to adequately fund our social services, they strengthen the future of our youth, and they contribute to retaining and increasing our population."

Moreover, New Brunswick's professors, researchers and librarians call upon the soon to be newly formed Government to expand and improve tuition relief programs, and to address other barriers that exist to post-secondary education, particularly those affecting Aboriginal peoples, in order to eliminate the significant employment and educational gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Finally, the FNBFA highlights the link between adequate funding of universities and fair working conditions on campus. "Publicly-funded universities should be model employers, but the working conditions of contract faculty are extremely poor; many, in fact, earn less than a living wage," added professor Babineau. "Educational institutions must lead the way and serve as examples when it comes to fair working conditions, for the health of our employees, the strength of our communities, and the quality of the opportunities that they will be able to provide to future generations."

What it comes down to, according to professor Babineau, is recognizing the fundamental role of New Brunswick's public universities, at all levels. In addition to economic, social, health and demographic benefits, our public universities are primarily and above all meant to be institutions dedicated to free inquiry and research in all its forms, independent from government and private-sector influence. "Many would argue that they are the only such institutions that exist today. As such, their unique role must be protected, their adequate funding given top priority, and we must work together to ensure that all New Brunswickers have access to this fundamental public good," says professor Babineau.

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**About the FNBFA**

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations promotes the interests of approximately 1,800 professors, contract academics, professional librarians and researchers in New Brunswick's four public universities. It advocates for the advancements of the standards of their professions and seeks to improve the quality of higher education in the province.

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